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1898

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Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 15th March, 1898. [24]

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MARRIAGES.

On the 27th April, at Batavia (Java), P. A. VAN
DE STAD, officer for Chinese affairs in Batavia (Java),
to M. C. E. KREMER. [71]

On the 16th March, at Leipzig, Mr. H. SCHROEDER,
of Tischoff, to Miss LUDWIG BECKER, daughter of
Dr. BECKER, Leipzig.

DEATHS.

At Chefoo, Korea, on the 16th April, Dr. E.
B. LANDER, of the English Church Mission.

At the Shanghai General Hospital, on the 24th
April, Jim SIQUEDA, ninth son of Norberto
and Cecilia NUNES SIQUEDA, aged 22 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, APRIL 29th, 1898.

In an article on "The Chinese Imbroglio" in the April Blackwood's the writer says that "We have receded before the mere triumphs of the opposing hosts. So long and so systematically have we pursued this course that the coolest of outside observers have come to reckon on our retreating attitude as surely as on the sequence of natural phenomena. The acts of Government, without distinction of party, have countenanced this theory, and the press minister to the universal belief, until the question begins to be asked whether there is any heat at which we will turn and resist the hustling at which the Chinese are being beaten."

Some comparisons are being made between the now famous armoured cruiser *Astrea* just launched at Elswick, and our own newly prepared vessels of the *Crescent* class. It is pointed out that these vessels will be slightly inferior to the *Astrea* in their designed speed (the *Astrea*'s is 24 knots), and will have the disadvantages of being built for two men, and of being of 12,000 tons displacement. The *Astrea* is quoted at 11,123 tons, and in addition m. 120 for each *Kangaroos* share. The *Kangaroos* share of the *Astrea* line 11,612 plus 12 per cent equals 12,724 tons, or by which amount, and the present value of the shares, but also that of the reserves, increased.

In Committee of Supply, the *Astrea* voted on the 26th March, on the vote, for £1,229,700 for works, buildings, and repair cost, including staff for engineering services.

Mr. Webster referred to the item for building stonewalls at Hongkong, and suggested that the defence of this colony ought to be placed in a satisfactory condition before more money was spent in building additional stonewalls.

Mr. Balfour, the First Lord of the Admiralty, said that with regard to Hongkong, there were no doubt one or two positions in the neighbourhood which might add in some degree to its security, but these matters had all been carefully considered, and up to the present the responsible experts in rating provision for the defence of Hongkong.

The *Astrea* is quoted at 24 knots, and the *Astrea* in the April Blackwood's terms the writer says that "We have receded before the mere triumphs of the opposing hosts. So long and so systematically have we pursued this course that the coolest of outside observers have come to reckon on our retreating attitude as surely as on the sequence of natural phenomena. The acts of Government, without distinction of party, have countenanced this theory, and the press minister to the universal belief, until the question begins to be asked whether there is any heat at which we will turn and resist the hustling at which the Chinese are being beaten."

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The statement is made that a private concession of presumably very great value has been made to the Chinese Government by British capitalists.

The concession in question is stated to be for an extensive area—large as 16,000 square miles, it is said—in the province of Shensi, a British syndicate. No particular are forthcoming, but perhaps the party of mining experts which left Waterloo on 3rd March by the Southampton express en route for China, via New York and Panama, and under the command of Mr. W. H. Morgan, M.P., will be able to give some information.

The outcome of the negotiations entered into with Li Hong-chang, Mr. Morgan, accompanied the Chinese Commissioners across to New York when leaving England, and obtained a commitment to induce Hongkong to interest themselves in developing the mineral resources of China. It is also stated that the Chinese Government has given a guarantee that the concession will be for a period of 99 years.

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